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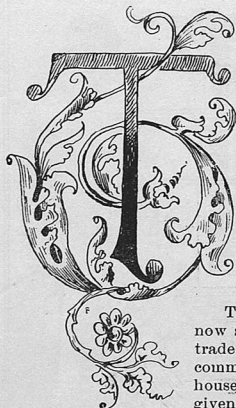
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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

### SILVER AND PLATE.

BY N. S. STOWELL.



HE demands of hospitality, and the pleasures of formal dinners, elegant breakfasts and high teas, make it necessary for the matron of artistic tastes to keep well informed as to the most desirable and fashionable of the many articles of plate which are designed and manufactured for the decoration or the necessities of the table.

The beauty and rarity of the wares now shown by the leading houses in this trade has been the subject of no little comment in business circles as well as in households where careful attention is given to current styles and the novelties which every season brings forth.

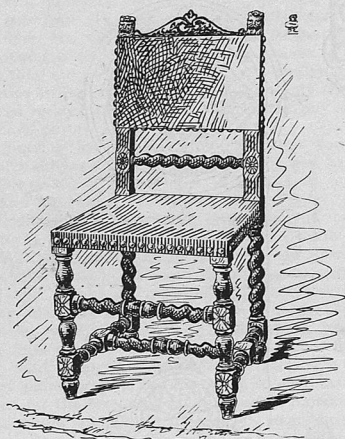
The number of pieces in a set of silver plate depends somewhat upon the taste or means of the purchaser. It may include ten pieces, or six, or any number between these figures.

An ordinary sized coffee urn will hold about three quarts, and may contain sufficient coffee for a dozen persons. With the coffee set proper comes the urn, water pot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, slop bowl, and spoon holder. A sirup pitcher and

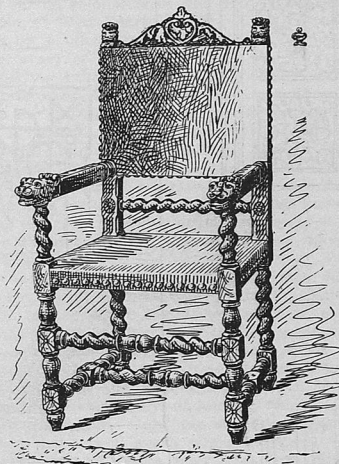
fine engraved work. In one style the corner and upper part of the body of the vessel is fluted in graduated pipes larger at the rim of the vessel and running into tiny lines at the middle. The band and lower portion are heavily engraved. The bases have feet decorated with engraving and a fan of the fluted work. This style costs about \$35 for coffee urn; \$12 to \$16 each for the coffee pot, tea pot and water jug; the sugar bowl \$9.50; cream pitcher, \$7.50; slop bowl, \$6.50; the butter dish \$10.50, and the sirup pitcher and spoon holder \$9.50 and \$6.50 respectively. When all of the pieces are selected at once the cost is somewhat less, \$65 to \$70 being sufficient to purchase an extremely pretty set in this style.

A fine quilted satin finish, with fluted top and burnished bands is popular. This style is somewhat more expensive than the other, a set of six pieces, coffee pot, tea pot, water jug, sugar bowl, cream pitcher and slop bowl costing \$65, the coffee urn, butter dish, sirup pitcher and spoonholder being nearly \$60 additional. The style is however one of the most exquisite ever brought out, and has had and is yet having immense success.

Engraved figures on satin finish looks like silver brocade on a ground of frost work. The bright band gives life and spirit to the design and the shapes are unique and graceful. There are half a score of models after which the new designs are made, and as individual taste varies so widely it is difficult to tell which is the most popular. A style in fluted surface with the lines running in a sweeping curve from top to bottom of the vessel is also very pretty, as well as that which shows perpendicular flutings in melon shape. Indeed the round, plump, nectiney melon has been the model for some of the best designs of the season.



DINING-ROOM CHAIR.



DINING-ROOM CHAIR.

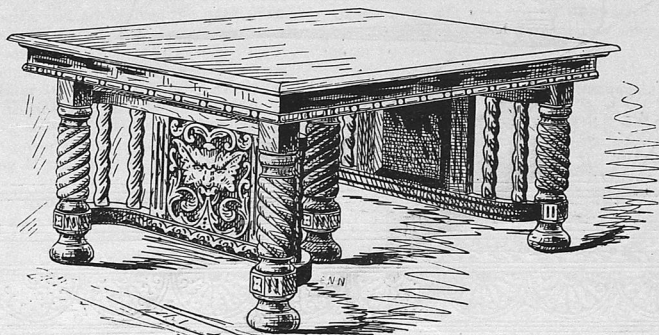
butter dish are often included in the complete set. For regular use where the family is small, there is a coffee pot for the daily needs. This will hold coffee sufficient for five to seven persons and with the addition of hot water and stronger coffee in the pot even more may be provided for. With this number of pieces in the set, only the addition of the teapot is required to make up a very comfortable breakfast or tea service.

Styles and prices vary with the taste of the design and the amount of labor and material employed in the manufacture of the article. Among the attractive patterns are noticed several in

Some exquisite chased work is shown, and this style in bands, with the fluted carved bodies just described, has been very highly complimented. Elegant and stylish tea sets, six pieces, cost all the way from \$50 to \$125.

Spoon holders are shown in goblet shape and in the melon shape just described.

A new style is a flat tray with nearly straight sides and handles. Others are tall, with arched handles and elaborately ornamented sides and bodies. The cup shaped holders cost \$6 to \$9, those with handles or bails \$4 to \$6, and the trays \$6 to \$9.



DINING-ROOM TABLE AND CHAIRS, MADE FOR J. F. RIORDAN, EDITOR OF THE TORONTO MAIL, BY CUTTING & DELANEY, BUFFALO, N. Y.

## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

Sirup cups cost from \$4 to \$10, and are shown in tall slender forms, regular pitcher shapes and in the melon patterns.

Butter dishes are brought out in great variety of unique and attractive styles. Some set very low upon the table, others rest upon a standard, and there are those that are suspended midway in an arch of decorated and filigree metal. While the latter design is attractive to look at, it can scarcely be as substantial as many others. The low flat solid styles are best. They cost all the way from \$5 to \$8. The fancy patterns with balls \$6 to \$18.

A breakfast caster is a convenient addition although not indispensable, as many families prefer individual pepper and salt dishes at each plate and have but little occasion for other condiments. It is not unusual, however, for each member of the family to have a tiny luncheon caster with the napkin ring attached. These are often used for breakfast and indeed for all informal meals where seasonings are likely to be required.

Breakfast casters are usually made with four bottles, for vinegar, oil, pepper and mustard. They are in square or round shapes, the square table or standard being the most in favor. The pattern in the silver follows in design the set with which it is, and the bottles are either plain or fancy cut, or in decorated glass. The crystal has heretofore been preferred, but of late there is a tendency toward tinted glass, which seems to be coming more and more into favor. Breakfast casters cost \$6 to \$15, according to style, size and quality of glass. \$8.50 buys one that is really beautiful. Luncheon casters cost \$2.75 to \$12. The latter sum bringing a most exquisitely decorated and engraved article with cut glass bottles.

Since oranges have become an almost indispensable portion of the modern breakfast of well to do people, there have been special dishes provided for holding this luscious fruit. They are of cut glass in silver frames. These orange bowls are either round, oval or in square shapes, varying in size from ten to twelve inches in diameter. They are exceedingly pretty and by their convenience are a decided ornament to the table. They are cut in divers attractive and unique patterns, the style known as the "hob nail" cut being preferred, as it most nearly resembles the genuine cut glass, which often costs twenty times as much, but which is so like, that only those familiar with both can distinguish between them at a little distance.

In the summer when fresh berries abound many families begin the morning meal with this delicious fruit. The berry bowls furnished for this purpose are so attractive that they cannot but add zest to the food.

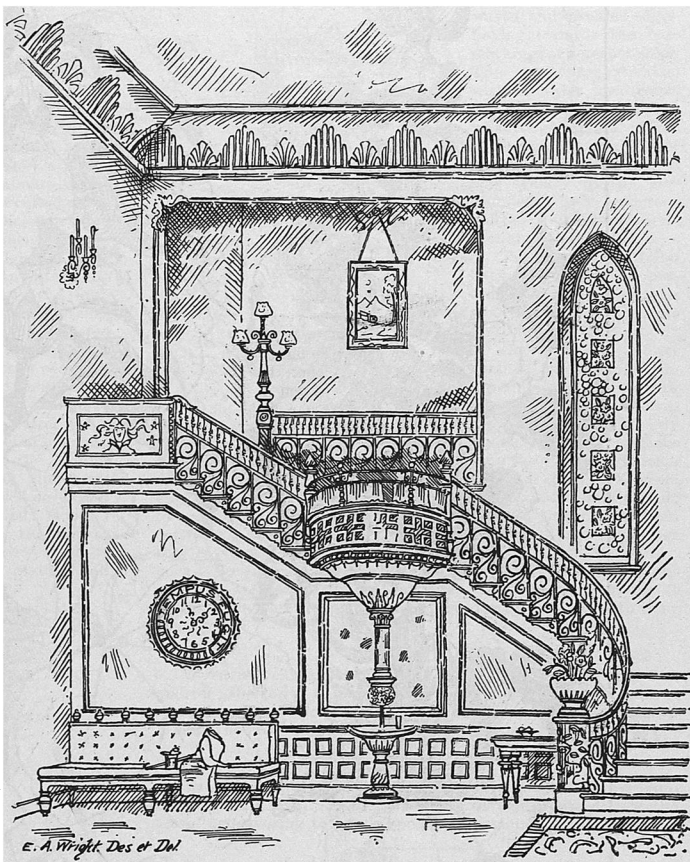
Indeed it is becoming much more thoroughly understood that food properly served is not only much more appetizing but more nutritious, the relish being an important element in proper assimilation. Crystal plates or saucers are provided for each individual, but these are without metal mountings. Silver knives are indispensable. They come in various attractive and novel styles.

Orange bowls cost \$9 to \$16, according to size and finish. The bowl is of cut glass, the frame and stand of silver. Some styles have elaborate handles and heavy base, others merely a light filigree work around the bowl and a plain light base. One style has a bail and an oblong desk, with plain fluted band base. This style costs \$12. A very elegant design in fancy gilt is \$21.

Berry dishes are wider and more shallow than the orange bowls, but are otherwise similar and mounted in very much the same fashion. Some of them have bowls of engraved glass, others of fluted or cut glass. Many of the bowls are of colored glass, either cut, engraved or decorated. Low flat dishes are popular although some of the newest patterns have balls that are made of a wide band of metal, and decorated in most elaborate style. An exquisite design has clusters of luscious looking strawberries hanging from the bail. Another has a light trellis of blackberry vines, leaves and stalks entwined around a handsome bowl of cut glass. The bail is also finished with the same flowers and leaves. The glass is either crystal or colored.

Egg stands are popular. They are in several forms, somewhat like a large caster, but have standards for the egg cups where the caster bottles are placed. A small bracket holds the spoon and the stand is ordinarily passed for each member of the family to take cup and spoon. The stand holds dishes for six

persons. In large families two are provided, one for each end of the table. Smaller stands hold four cups, and there are occasionally egg sets in the market consisting of a tiny caster holding pepper, salt, an egg cup and spoon, and sometimes a napkin ring. The regular egg stands cost from \$10 for small sizes to about \$30 for the largest. At this figure gold lined spoons are included. Toast racks are among the breakfast conveniences.



AN IRON STAIRWAY.

They are in various sizes and will hold from six to twelve slices of toast. They cost \$10 to \$12 each.

Some families are fond of crackers, and always have them on the breakfast table. There are exceedingly pretty and convenient cracker jars in all plate and also with glass. They cost \$9 to \$15 each. The above includes the pieces of silver required for a full breakfast service.

Separate coffee urns are among the articles in regular demand. Aside from the fact that they are very elegant and ornamental, they have the additional merit of convenience in having a lamp, by means of which the contents of the urn may be kept warm. This is an important item in families where the members are inclined to be late at the breakfast table. Handsome urns cost \$26 to \$40. They rest on high standards with a spirit lamp underneath. They are of various shapes and styles, round, fluted, low and broad, cup shaped, or with straight sides, all of them have strong handles and a faucet.

Special attention is given to tete-a-tete sets of four pieces with tray. They comprise coffee pot, teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher and tray, they cost \$20 to \$50, without the tray they are \$18 to \$35.

Dessert sets of sugar bowl, cream pitcher, and spoon holder are popular. They are among the most useful and acceptable of presents and one which any housekeeper will appreciate; they cost \$15 to \$25.

There are pretty desert sets of silver and glass; the sugar bowl and cream pitcher are of glass; there is a silver back to rest upon, and a double bail that is connected by rosettes. Some very attractive styles may be had for \$7 to \$10.

All silver berry sets are specially desirable. They are in curved fluted style, a centre dish for fruit and a cream pitcher and sugar bowl on either end of a silver base. In several grades this style costs \$35 to \$45.